

T H E

Jamaica ASSOCIATION

D E V E L O P ' D.



Jamaica : Printed in the Year 1755.

L O N D O N : Re-printed 1757.

1871

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER



PP. 100



THE
S P E E C H
Of his EXCELLENCY
CHARLES KNOWLES, Esq;
Captain General, Governor and Commander,
Ec. Ec. Ec.

To the Honourable A S S E M B L Y.

Delivered on *Friday* the 8th of *Nov.* 1754,
at their DISSOLUTION.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly.

WHEN I met you at the Opening of the Session, I met you with a Heart, truly disposed to join you, in promoting the Welfare and Happiness of this Island: But on reading your Minutes of Yesterday, it is too plain, you are for carrying Things on with so high and usurped an Authority, that I should betray the Trust reposed in me by his Majesty, was I not to interpose.

The Prerogative of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People, are your Duty to main-

tain and preserve, as well as mine ; and yet you are invading them daily. Some of you have also attempted to alter the established Constitution of your Country, and have entered into a Combination to govern independently yourselves, as appears by a wicked Association, destructive to the Rights and Property of the Inhabitants, which has hitherto been kept a Secret.

The extraordinary Paper likewise, which was sent me last Assembly, by your Speaker, are Proofs of the Designs, that have been laid to subvert our happy Constitution, and wrest the Power out of the Hands of the Crown.

The vast Sums of Money, for Years past, lavish'd away in Donations and Gratifications to *particular Favourites*, the *jobbs* that have been made in *your* Fortifications, and other Public Buildings, to the Amount of upwards of 90,000*l.* within these few Years, are Grievances to the Public ; Such Grievances ! as call loud for Redress ! and I will redress, and make thus publicly known, That the People may have an Opportunity of contributing to their own Happiness hereafter, by a more proper Choice of their Representatives.

The *sounding Words* LOSS OF LIBERTY ! and PRIVILEGES ! I am sensible, convey dangerous Ideas ; But the Loss of the People's LIBERTIES, may as soon happen, let me tell you, thro' the *Tyranny* of a *Decemvirate*, as under the Administration of any single Person.

Your

Your Power of sitting here, is derived to you, by Virtue of his Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal to me directed, and had you been disposed, to have done the public Business with Moderation, Justice and Candour, I should have heartily concurred with you: But such extraordinary Resolutions as you came to Yesterday, oblige me to put an End to this Assembly. " And I do therefore in his Majesty's Name, by and with the Advice of His Council, dissolve this present Assembly; " and you are hereby dissolved accordingly.

A S S O C I A T I O N.

WE the Under-written, have taken into our serious Consideration, of what Importance it is to the Good of any State or People, That an Harmony should reign, not only among the public Orders of the State, or Branches of the Legislature, but also, among the principal private Members of the Community; it too often happening that Quarrels among Private Families, if they be principal Ones, spread and grow into Public Feuds, Parties or Faction: *Therefore as much as in us lies,* To promote the Blessings of Unity, and avert the Misery of Discord: We resolve to

Associate together, and laying by all private Disgusts and Quarrels, if any there have been, to act in Concert, and as one Body, for the carrying on good Government, and the Welfare of this Island.

WE RESOLVE not to propose any Bills in either House, or take any Step, whereby the Public may be affected; without first consulting the other Members of this Association, and having their Approbation.

AND as nothing can tend more to the public Good, than there should be an Harmony between the Governor of this Island, and the principal Gentlemen thereof, WE RESOLVE to stand by, and support Admiral *KNOWLES* in the carrying on his Administration, as long as he appears to us to have at Heart the public Service.

If any of us should happen to apprehend any of his Measures to be hurtful to the Public, we promise to give Notice thereof to the other Members, in Order, that if it should be the general Opinion, that the Apprehension is well grounded, and his Measures wrong, all may join in desiring him to desist; and in Case of his Refusal in opposing, but not oppose, without giving previous Notice as above.

We think it reasonable, that his Salary should be the same as the present Governor.

Whatever Measure shall be agreed on by three fourths of the Members of this Association,

tion, shall be promoted by the unanimous Concurrence of all.

WILLIAM DAWKINS, (*dead*)
 ROSE FULLER,
 RICHARD BECKFORD,
 EDW. CLARKE,
 THO. FEARON, *Sen.*
 JOHN PALMER, (*dead*)
 HAMPSON NEDHAM, (*dead*)
 EDW. MANNING,
 HEN. ARCHBOULD, } *Receded.*
 PHIL. PINNOCK,
 CHARLES PRICE.

EXTRAORDINARY P A P E R.

WHEN it concerns the Affairs of the Assembly, to C. P. to be communicated to others.

When it concerns any particular Cause in his Courts, F and B.

When it concerns the Courts or Proceedings in general of the Courts, A B C D, &c.

When it concerns Things relative to Externals. The Council.

When it concerns Internals, A B C D, &c.

When it concerns the Militia of the Island. To a Council of War.

TO THE
FREEHOLDERS

Of the Island of

J A M A I C A.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is a Circumstance worth remarking, that all ASSOCIATIONS have been, in their outset, coloured over with some plausible Pretence of doing good, let their evident Tendency be ever so pernicious and destructive. *Milton* makes the Chief of the *Rebel Angels* propose *unlimited Freedom*, and *absolute Authority*, in order to form an ASSOCIATION against the Power and Authority of the Supreme Lord and *King of Heaven*. This (even according to our religious Belief) was the first illegal Anti-constitutional ASSOCIATION, which, instead of carrying on *Good Government*, produced Confusion in the *Angelick Host*; the result of which was the Overthrow, Destruction, and eternal Damnation of the ASSOCIATES, who were banished from Heaven, and exiled from Grace and Mercy for ever. *Korah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram* associated against *Moses*: The
Earth

Earth opened its Mouth and swallowed them up, and they went down quick into *Hell*.

Catiline proposed carrying on good Government with an ASSOCIATION, which was to burn the City of *Rome*, destroy the *Senate* and *Nobles*, and consequently the legal Government of the Country. These ASSOCIATES too had their Deserts.

The ASSOCIATION of *Pompey*, *Cæsar* and *Crassus*, was proposed for carrying on good Government; but this too, was an illegal and Anti-constitutional Power. And tho', in the End, it both subverted the Government, and destroyed the Constitution, yet it was not any Protection to the ASSOCIATES themselves. We find *Pompey*, who had enslaved his Country, murdered by a few *Egyptian* Villains and Slaves; *Crassus* killed by the faithless *Parthians*, himself having kept no Faith with his Country; and the mighty *Cæsar*, the last of the ASSOCIATES, (after trampling on his Country's Liberty) butcher'd in the Senate-House, in the middle of his own chosen venal Senators; so dangerous it has been, is, and ever will be, for any one or more Subjects to enter into, or erect any ASSOCIATION, or Power, which in the least interferes with the established Constitution and Government of their Country, let their Pretences be ever so plausible.

I would not be understood, to include such ASSOCIATIONS, as the Prince, Officers of State, Members of the Legislature, and People in general,

general, have, or may, enter into, for the Preservation of the Prince, or People, when either are in Danger ; such are neither illegal, Anti-constitutional, nor productive of any bad Consequences.

But, not to go back into *Ancient History*, the League in *France*, and the Solemn League and Covenant in *Britain*, tho' they pretended their ASSOCIATIONS were for carrying on *good Government*, and for the Safety of their respective Princes and Countries, yet they were the Cause, and are deplorable Instances of the Ruin of both.

I have been drawn into the above Observation, by a Paper lately printed, and call'd *ASSOCIATION*. I verily believe none of the above ASSOCIATIONS set out more plausibly, and we are happy, that the Intention is so apparent, that he must know nothing of the Constitution of his Country, or its Laws, who does not plainly see, that it is both illegal and Anti-constitutional, and a Tyranny destructive of our Liberty.

It is a Maxim, that no Government can subsist, which has within it a Power independent of itself. *Imperium in Imperio*, is an unnatural Monster, and if not altered would infallibly destroy itself. But *Imperium in Imperio* does not sufficiently define or give an adequate Idea of this ASSOCIATION. I believe no Term can comprehend it ; unless we may be allowed an Expression as extravagant as the ASSOCIATION itself,

itself, viz. *Potestas super Imperium*; which is a Power both monstrous and absurd. But I shall give the ASSOCIATION itself a fair Hearing; and if any thing turns out in its Favour, I shall submit it to the Judgment of the Public, when a Defence of it appears in Print; nor shall I ever think this answered, merely *Verso pollice*, of any four Parishes in the Island.

A S S O C I A T I O N.

“ **W**E the Under-written, have taken in-
 “ to our serious Consideration of what
 “ Importance it is to the good of any State or
 “ People, that an Harmony should reign not
 “ only among the public Orders of the State,
 “ or Branches of the Legislature, but also
 “ among the Principal private Members of the
 “ Community; it too often happening, that
 “ Quarrels among private Families, if they be
 “ principal Ones, spread and grow into publick
 “ Feuds, Parties, or Faction. Therefore, as
 “ much as in us lies to promote the Blessing of
 “ Unity, and avert the Misery of Discord :

1st. “ We Resolve to ASSOCIATE together,
 “ and laying by all private Disgusts and Quar-
 “ rels, if any there have been, to act *in concert*,
 “ and as ONE BODY FOR CARRYING ON GOOD
 “ GOVERNMENT, and the Welfare of this
 “ Island.

So

So stands the Preamble and first Resolution of the ASSOCIATES; of which the first thing that strikes us, is, the Difference between the Preamble and the Resolution itself, which have not the least relation to each other; for the Preamble only asserts the great Benefits resulting from a general Harmony, and particular Harmony in the Legislature; whence any Man of Common Sense would conclude, that the Resolution, founded on it, would necessarily have been, *To Act in concert, and as one Body, in promoting Harmony and Unity, and preventing Discord; in order that Good Government might be carried on in such Manner, and by such Powers and Persons, as our established Constitution and Laws have ordained, and appointed for that Purpose*; instead of which the *Associates*, (in Virtue of what Authority, they alone can tell) incorporate themselves into ONE BODY Politick for carrying on GOOD GOVERNMENT. Thus the Resolution fully discovers the Serpent among the Flowers, and turns the specious Pretence of Harmony, to the most glaring Hypocrisy and Diffimulation: For by this Resolution, the Harmony in the Legislature is totally destroyed, and instead of the three Powers, which preserve the due Ballance of the Legislature; here is a Body taking upon itself a Fourth Power, which perfectly destroys the Balance, provided the ASSOCIATES had been modest enough, to have admitted the three constitutional

tional Powers, which make up our Legislature, or any of them upon an equality with the ASSOCIATION ; but this would have been below so powerful a Body, which as it created itself, must therefore be more than omnipotent, and of Course the ASSOCIATION has set itself above the Constitution and the established Government ; without so much as mentioning the *Governor, Council or Assembly*, in their Legislative Capacity,—*and created themselves a Body, for carrying on good Government.* Thus are our Constitution, Laws and Government, subjected to an illegal, Anti-constitutional ASSOCIATION, and the charming Sound of *Harmony*, converted into a discordant, illegal governing Power.

So much for the specious Preamble and first Resolution ; we now come to the second Resolution, *viz.*

II. “ We Resolve not to propose any Bills
 “ in either House, or take any Step, whereby
 “ the Publick may be affected, without first
 “ consulting the other Members of this ASSO-
 “ CIATION, and having their Approbation.

By this second Resolution, the Mask of Disimulation is quite thrown aside, and the two Houses of Council and Assembly, tho’ not laid totally aside by the ASSOCIATION, are only nominally to be made use of, as Tools of Conveyance and Countenance to *Bills passed at the ASSOCIATION-Board.* Thus was His Majesty’s
 Privy-

Privy-Council, the second Power in our Legislature, to have been ASSOCIATION-ridden! without the Knowledge of most of the Members of that Honourable Board; a most signal Affront, if not worse offered, to His Majesty and loyal Subjects of this Island? Thus also was the most *glorious and darling Privilege of British Subjects*, and on which their Liberty, Lives and Property inseparably depend, *A free Assembly* to have been ASSOCIATION-ridden, and their Power and Freedom, monopolized into the Hands of the ASSOCIATES; and the People's Representatives, returned only to serve their King and Country, as the ASSOCIATION should direct; and this too, unknown to all themselves, except Five or Six. An Attempt of so heinous a Nature, as no *Free Briton* can ever forget, and perhaps never forgive. We come now to the third Resolution, viz.

“ And as nothing can tend more to the
 “ publick Good, than there should be an Har-
 “ mony between the Governor of this Island,
 “ and the principal Gentlemen thereof,

III. “ We Resolve to stand by and support
 “ *Admiral KNOWLES*, in carrying on his
 “ Administration, as long as he appears to Us,
 “ to have at Heart the Publick Service.

“ If any of Us should happen to apprehend
 “ any of his Measures to be hurtful to the Pub-
 “ lick, We promise to give Notice thereof to
 “ the other Members, in order, that if it
 “ should

“ should be the general Opinion that the Apprehension is well grounded, and his Measures wrong, all may join in desiring him to desist ; and in Case of his Refusal, in OPPOSING, but not oppose without giving previous Notice as above.

“ We think it reasonable that his Salary should be the same as the present Governor's.

“ Whatever Measures shall be agreed on by three fourths of the Members of this Association, shall be promoted by the unanimous Concurrence of all.”

This third and last Resolution is of a very complicated Nature; and as it is the most daring, and of the most dangerous Tendency, with regard to the Government, as by our Constitution and Laws established, so it is likewise the most dangerous to the ASSOCIATES themselves; of which they seem to have been fully apprised, when they introduce it with a specious Preamble, with no less Diffimulation than the first. For here again they propose *Harmony with the Governor*, and afterwards Resolve to oppose him, if they dislike his Measures; on the mere Apprehension of three fourths of the ASSOCIATION-BOARD. It is true they first Resolve *to stand by and support Admiral KNOWLES* in carrying on his Administration; but here again, *latet Anguis in Herba*; for they add to it, *as long as he appears to Us to have*

have at Heart the Public Service ; of which they are to be the sole Judges.

What part of the Government the ASSOCIATES intended *Admiral KNOWLES* should administer, does not appear. It could not be in his Legislative Capacity, for this they deprive him of by permitting none but ASSOCIATION BILLS to come up to him ; and if he could not, both on account of the Royal Instructions, and Reason of the Thing itself, pass *them*, then the ASSOCIATES would permit no others to be sent up to him. We shall suppose, then, they intended to allow him to exert such a Part of his Executive Capacity, as it was impossible for them to deprive him of, *viz.* being Witness of all Acts of the Royal Power, in granting Commissions, issuing Writs, &c. But we find the ASSOCIATION restrains too his Power in this Part of his Administration ; for it necessarily follows, if he does not prostitute, also, this Part of his Administration of the Royal Authority, to the Arbitrary Will and Apprehension of the ASSOCIATES, he no longer appears to them *to have at Heart the Public Service*. And, in order to engross this Part of the Administration, into the Power of the ASSOCIATION, they go on to terrify, if it was possible, *Admiral KNOWLES* into a Compliance with their Will, in his Executive Capacity ; and Resolve to desire him to desist from his Measures, or Witnessing such Royal Acts of Power as are necessary for carrying on

B

Government,

Government, and putting in Execution, the Royal Commission, with which he is entrusted, according to the Royal Instructions, merely because the ASSOCIATES apprehend he does Wrong; or rather, because he Governs in Virtue of the Royal Commission, and not by a Power delegated to him by the ASSOCIATION. And now follows the most daring Attempt of the whole; and that is, *if he refuses to desist*, then the ASSOCIATES resolve to *Oppose* him. Thus is the Power of the King in Council, the only Power to which the Governor is accountable, usurped by the ASSOCIATES, who, instead of making the legal Application (in case of his doing Wrong) to the King in Council as directed by Act of Parliament, have determined and resolved to punish him by opposing.

Every Man of Common Sense, must conclude this to be meant of an Opposition, which could not be resisted; because, they suppose, he has refused to desist, on their resistible Application. What Force they intended to use, in Opposing, the ASSOCIATION does not say: but we may conclude, that an effectual one was meant; and this has been adjudged, a taking the Crown from the King's Head, and the Sword out of his Hand, as in the Case of Sir Christopher Blunt, and others, to be found in the *State Tryals*, who formed an ASSOCIATION, to require of Queen Elizabeth CERTAIN CONDITIONS and ALTERATIONS of Government;

ment; but intended no hurt to her Person.
 “ The Court replied, That a Conspiracy to
 “ put a Force upon the Queen was Treason:
 “ That the Law construed such an Attempt
 “ to be a Design upon the Princess's Life and
 “ Crown: That when a Subject took upon
 “ him to give Laws to the King, he took the
 “ Sword out of his Hand, and the Crown off
 “ his Head; and therefore it was highly rea-
 “ sonable, that the Law should construe the
 “ putting a Force upon the King, to be an At-
 “ tempt against his Life.” And it is not to be
 doubted that the Court would have given a
 like Judgment, tho' Queen *Elizabeth* had at
 that Time been abroad, and the *Opposition*
 made to whom she had delegated her Power.
 Of those ASSOCIATES, some were by Verdict
 and Sentence beheaded, and others hanged and
 quartered.

But a Case nearer in point, to the present
 ASSOCIATION, is that of the *Spencers*, who
 broached, as it is called in Lord COKE's *Re-
 ports*, in *Calvin's Case*, *A damnable and damned
 Opinion*. Whence they inferred, “ That if
 “ the King did not demean himself, by Reason
 “ in right of his Crown, his Leiges be bound
 “ by Oath to remove him; and seeing that the
 “ King could not be reformed by Suit of Law,
 “ that ought to be done *pour Aspreté*,” which,
 in the Lord Chief Baron's Speech, in the *State
 Tryals*, at pronouncing Sentence upon the Re-
 gicides, he calls *Asperity*, Sharpness or *Im-*

prisonment, (all which are fully comprehended in the Word *Oppose*) for which *damnable damned* Opinion, the *Spencers* suffered Banishment; and the Opinion itself is condemned by two several Acts of Parliament, one in the Reign of *Edward II.* called, *Exilium Hugonis le SPENCER*, the other in 3d. *Edward I. Cap. 1.* and may be seen in the Statute.

What Crime the Law will construe the Opposition of the present ASSOCIATION, I shall not take upon me to say; but it is very evident, that the Law never waits for the Execution of the *Opposition*, to determine of the Crime, but fairly construes it, from the apparent Tendency and Intention of the *Opposition*, and ASSOCIATES. And to the Law I therefore leave it.

I cannot but admire to find the ASSOCIATION thinking it *reasonable*, to give *Admiral KNOWLES* the same Salary his Predecessor had, seeing he was to be suffered to do nothing for it but what (if it had been possible for him to have submitted to) must have rendered him unworthy of it. And happy is it for Us, that he is incapable of admitting any mean or dishonourable Proposition, tho' never so advantageous to his Interest or Fortune. But it will appear, to any one, a gross Presumption, for the ASSOCIATES, either to offer him such a Salary, as an Equivalent for giving up and betraying the Power delegated to him, or to apply the publick Money, without Law. On
the

the whole I am of Opinion, that this Island was in the greatest Danger of having its Constitution and Laws subverted and destroyed. And if People are not wilfully blind, they must see, that they owe the Preservation of their Lives, Liberty, and Privileges to his Excellency's Integrity, Honour and Generosity, at this Time shewn, by the Spirit of Truth and Justice which he exerts in Preservation both of the Prerogative of the Crown and Privileges of the People, without a due Preservation of both which, our glorious Constitution and Privileges, can never be preserved. And that he may long exert his excellent Talent for Government, *for the Support of both*, ought to be the daily Prayer of every *true Briton*.

If it should be asked, Why this wicked ASSOCIATION (if known) should not have been sooner discovered? To such a Query it may be, with Reason and Truth, answered, That every Government, in good Policy, does, and ought to keep secret many Things, and among others, Machinations, Plots and ASSOCIATIONS against itself, till they are ripe for Discovery, of which those at the Head of the Government, are the best and only Judges.

If it should be asked, Why (if known) were some of the ASSOCIATES preferred to, and others continued in Posts, and Offices of high Trust and Honour, and not stripp'd of their Power and exposed to Infamy? To this, may be answered, from an eminent Author, " That
 " the

“ the grand Art of Governing, is to know
 “ how to choofe and apply, according to their
 “ feveral Talents, thofe that are under you ; to
 “ govern thofe that govern, to correct them,
 “ try them, encourage them, raife them, keep
 “ keep them under, change them, and have
 “ a conftant Eye over them, regulate them, and
 “ infpire them with good Conduct. I am
 “ fully perfuaded (fays the fame Author) that
 “ the effential Point of Government is, to dif-
 “ cern well, the different Characters and In-
 “ clinations of each Man’s Spirit ; to make a
 “ prudent Choice, and to apply them accord-
 “ ing to their feveral Talents ; to converfe
 “ with them in private, to fift up from the
 “ bottom of their Souls, all the fecret Springs
 “ that lie lurking there, to feel them on every
 “ fide, and to found their Maxims thoroughly.
 “ And if they are found ill Men, that have
 “ Abilities and a Talent of Bufinefs, on fo ftrict
 “ a Scrutiny, *the fame Author fays*, there is
 “ oftentimes a Neceffity to make ufe of them.
 “ When a Nation is in a Ferment and Dif-
 “ order, there are often found crafty Knaves in
 “ Authority: They are poffeffed of confider-
 “ able Pofts, which they cannot be eafily
 “ put out of ; they have acquired the Confi-
 “ dence of certain powerful Perfons, who
 “ muft be humoured, becaufe they are dreaded,
 “ and have it in their Power to raife Distur-
 “ bances at pleasure. ’Tis proper therefore to
 “ continue them for a time, but ftill with a
 “ Design

“ Design to render them useless by degrees.
 “ As for real and intimate Confidence, beware
 “ of ever reposing it in them, for they may
 “ abuse it, and hold you fast (in spite of
 “ all you can do) by the Secrets you have
 “ committed to them, a Chain more hard
 “ to be broken than any made of Iron.
 “ *While you connive at their Faults* as Hu-
 “ man Frailties, you ought not let pass un-
 “ punished, the Evils they would openly
 “ commit if they were let alone. After
 “ all there is an Evil in the very Good
 “ that is done by ill Men ; and though this
 “ Evil often becomes inevitable, you should
 “ however endeavour by degrees to put a
 “ stop to it. A wise Prince, who aims at
 “ good Order and Justice in all his Views,
 “ will in Time be able to lay aside corrupt
 “ and fraudulent Men, and do his Business
 “ without them : He will find enough of good
 “ Men of a sufficient Capacity to serve him.”

If it should be asked, Why some of the
 ASSOCIATES are continued, and some pre-
 ferred to Trust and Honours? It can with
 Truth be answered, *That those who are so,*
were not only unwarily drawn into the Associa-
tion, but on the first Discovery of the evil
and dangerous Tendency of it, separated them-
selves from it, and have made ample Amends
to their Country, for their Inadvertency, by
becoming real Props to the Constitution and
Government ; and zealous Defenders of the
Liberty

Liberty and Privileges of their Fellow Subjects. So much for the ASSOCIATION.

The Extraordinary Paper, contains an Arbitrary Direction, as to some Particulars, in the very Spirit of the *Association*. For, when it concerns the Affairs of the Assembly, the Application must be to *C. P.* and not to the Speaker for the Time being; nor can others be informed or consulted, but through *C. P.* This cuts off all Communication with the Representatives of the People, and prevents both Intelligence and Redress of Grievances, which is not now to be applied for in the decent Parliamentary Method and Custom, by Address or Petition, but by the Summary Opposition of the *Association*.

When it concerns any particular Cause in his Courts, to *F.* and *B.* not to the Chief Justice and Attorney-General for the Time being; and thus are our Fortunes to be decreed upon by *F.* and *B.* and not by the Chancellor or Ordinary, &c.

When it concerns the Courts, or Proceedings in general of the Courts, *A. B. C. D.*, &c. which is the Supreme Power of the *Association-Board*.

When it concerns Things relative to Externals. The Council.

When it concerns Internals, *A. B. C. D.* Here again we find his Majesty's Honourable

able Privy-Council, in their Capacity as a Council of State, set aside in all Matters of Consequence, and made Nominal Cyphers, and a mere stalking Horse for the Use of the ASSOCIATION.

When it concerns the Militia of the Island, to a Council of War. This, though it seems the most reasonable, and least Ambitious Injunction, yet it is not so by Design, for the ASSOCIATES were certain of their Power there, either by themselves or their Creatures, to judge and ordain as they were pleased to think fit.

And now to conclude, though I am a *Native* of this Island, and as such, have been persuaded to exert myself against the Measures of Government, yet, my Honour, Conscience and Understanding, as well as the Safety of my Person and Fortune, must ever be a bar to my joining in, countenancing or supporting, so dangerous an ASSOCIATION.

It is scarce possible to suppose, that any Man, who has the use of his Reason, would *choose* to set any one, or more of his Fellow Subjects, to lord it over himself, but if such a *groveling Wretch* exists, all *Free Britons* and *honest Men* should fly from and disown him; the greatest Curse and Punishment (except his own *Choice*) which can befall him.

Thus Gentlemen (as I think every loyal Subject and Lover of his Country ought) I
C have

have endeavoured to shew my Detestation and Abhorrence of all Illegal, Anti-constitutional and Tyrannical ASSOCIATIONS, of Ten, Eleven, or let their Number be what it will; and if I have the good Fortune, to open the Eyes of those of my Fellow *Freeholders*, who are not wilfully blind, that they may unanimously endeavour to preserve and support to the utmost of their Power, that glorious Constitution and Government (which makes us envied by all other Countries) against such dangerous Attempts to destroy and subvert both; I have my utmost Wish and Reward.

I am,

My Fellow Freeholders,

Your most faithful Friend,

J A M A I C A N U S.